

UNCLASSIFIED

## Department of State

INCOMING  
TELEGRAM

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ACTION ARA-16

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6/29/81

BUENOS 04811 292215Z

INFO OCT-01 ADS-00 AID-07 INR-10 SS-15 CIAE-00 DODE-00  
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BUENOS AIRES 4811

E.O. 12065: GDS 6/29/87 (FRIEDMAN, T.B.) OR-P  
 TAGS: SHUM PINT AR  
 SUBJECT: CAMILION ATTACKS TIMERMAN

1. (U) INTRODUCTION AND SUMMARY. FOREIGN MINISTER OSCAR CAMILION PUBLICLY CHARGED THAT AN ANTI-ARGENTINE CAMPAIGN IS BEING CONDUCTED IN THE UNITED STATES WITH JACOBO TIMERMAN AS ITS AGENT. CAMILION, WHO SOUGHT THE PRESS OUT TO MAKE HIS CHARGES JUNE 26, REPORTEDLY STATED THAT "THE CAMPAIGN AGAINST ARGENTINA IS BUILT AROUND MR. TIMERMAN, WHO IS ITS AGENT AND AT THE SAME TIME THE CENTER OF AN OPERATION THAT HAS OVERSHOT ITS ORIGINAL OBJECTIVES, THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT, AND NOW ATTACKS THE ARGENTINE NATION." END INTRODUCTION AND SUMMARY.

2. (U) CAMILION EXPRESSED PARTICULAR CONCERN ABOUT A U.S. TV BROADCAST OF JUNE 25 WHICH "OVERSTEPS THE BOUNDS OF THE REASONABLE AND THE TOLERABLE...MENTION OF CONCENTRATION CAMPS IS WORTHY OF COMPARISON TO THE TECHNIQUES OF BOEBBELS." CAMILION, WHO REPORTEDLY WAS VISIBLY ANGRY, WENT ON TO SAY THAT "THE REITERATION OF SUCH CHARGES CAN HAVE A SERIOUS IMPACT ON US PUBLIC OPINION, ALTHOUGH THE US GOVERNMENT HAS ALL THE ELEMENTS FOR KNOWING THE TRUTH. WHAT IS BEING DONE IN THE UNITED STATES IS AN ATTACK ON THE ARGENTINE NATION...THE GROTESQUE AND SLIPPERY TECHNIQUE BEING USED IS TOTALITARIAN...AND WAS THE VENOM THAT WAS INJECTED INTO THE PEOPLES OF THE WEST AND PRODUCED A MEGATONN (HOLOCAUST)."

3. (U) CAMILION REPORTEDLY ALSO STATED THAT "WE ACCEPT THE RULES OF THE GAME OF AMERICAN'S DEMOCRACY BUT NOBODY CAN STOP US EXPRESSING OUR CONCERN AND PROTEST IN THE EXERCISE OF THE MOST LEGITIMATE RIGHT OF SELF-DEFENSE."

4. (U) THE PRESS REPORTS THAT FOREIGN MINISTRY SOURCES STATED THAT THE FOREIGN MINISTER HAD CALLED IN THE US CHARGE TO DISCUSS THESE SAME CONCERNS EARLIER THAT DAY.

5. (U) ONLY ONE PAPER, THUS FAR, HAS PROBED THE ISSUES RAISED BY TIMERMAN AND HIS ALLIES IN ANY DEPTH. "LA PRENSA" ACCOMPANIED ITS REPORT OF CAMILION'S REMARKS WITH, AMONG OTHER THINGS, COMMENTS FROM DIFFERENT MEMBERS OF THE LOCAL JEWISH COMMUNITY. MARIO GORENSTEIN, TH PRESIDENT OF DAIA, FOR EXAMPLE, STATED THAT, "THE OPINIONS OF TIMERMAN HAVE NOT BEEN WELL RECEIVED BY THE JEWISH COMMUNITY, IN GENERAL. WE ARE CONVINCED THAT THE ORIGIN OF HIS DETENTION WAS NOT IN THE FACT HE IS A JEW. SOME INCIDENTS DURING HIS DETENTION HAD THE FLAVOR OF ANTI-SEMITISM, BUT THIS IS ALL." ON THE OTHER HAND, AMERICAN RABBI MARSHALL MEYER, A LONG-TIME RESIDENT OF BUENOS AIRES,

TO WHOM TIMERMAN DEDICATES HIS BOOK, TOLD THE PAPER, "WHY DON'T WE FOCUS ON REAL ISSUES. WHO IS BEFOULING ARGENTINA'S IMAGE? THOSE WHO TORTURED TIMERMAN OR TIMERMAN?"

6. COMMENT. IT WAS INEVITABLE THAT THE US DEBATE ON THE ARGENTINE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION AND ON THE CONDITION OF THE ARGENTINE JEWISH COMMUNITY WOULD BECOME ENSNARED WITH ARGENTINE NATIONALISM. CAMILION HAS MADE THIS CONNECTION EXPLICIT, BUT HE DID NOT INVENT IT. MORE LIKELY, THE FOREIGN MINISTER MADE HIS PRIVATE DEMARCHE AND HIS PUBLIC COMMENTS WITH HIS EYE CAREFULLY FIXED ON THE ARGENTINE MILITARY. HE MAY HOPE TO SLOW DOWN THE REACTION TO TIMERMAN'S CHARGES IN THOSE QUARTERS AND/OR, MORE PRAGMATICALLY TO SHOW THE MILITARY THAT HE AND HIS MINISTRY ARE ON THE RIGHT SIDE IN THIS ISSUE.

7. THE COMMENTS OF GORENSTEIN REFLECT GENERALIZED ATTITUDES IN THE LEADERSHIP OF THE ARGENTINE JEWISH COMMUNITY. THOUGH THAT LEADERSHIP IS SOMETIMES ACCUSED BY FOREIGNERS OF BEING INTIMIDATED, WE NOTE THAT THE JUNE 28 ISSUE OF "LA PRENSA" CARRIES A DATA MESSAGE OF SUPPORT FOR THE PAPER IN ITS CURRENT EMBROGLIO WITH THE GOVERNMENT, AS WELL AS FOR ITS ASSAULTED COLONIST, MANFRED SHOENFELD.

RUSER

ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)

U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS

Margaret P. Grafeld, Director

(X) Release ( ) Excise ( ) Deny

Exemption(s):

Declassify: ( ) In Part (X) In Full

( ) Classify as ( ) Extend as ( ) Downgrade to

Date Declassify on Reason

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